

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent application

Inventor(s)

for

Title of invention

the specification of which is being transmitted herewith

OR

In re application of: SCHONNENBECK, Gert

Application No.: 10 / 623,467 Group No.:

Filed: July 18, 2003 Examiner:

For: TRACTOR HITCH TRANSMISSION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.8(a) and 1.10*
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37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)

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John S. Egbert

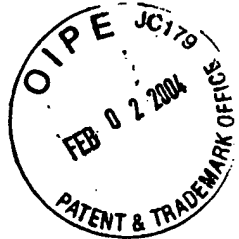
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"Since the filing of correspondence under § 1.10 without the Express Mail mailing label thereon is an oversight that can be avoided by the exercise of reasonable care, requests for waiver of this requirement will **not** be granted on petition." Notice of Oct. 24, 1996, 60 Fed. Reg. 56,439, at 56,442.

(Information Disclosure Statement [6-1]—page 1 of _____)



NOTE: "An information disclosure statement shall be considered by the Office if filed by the applicant:

- (1) Within three months of the filing date of a national application;
- (2) Within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application; or
- (3) Before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, whichever event occurs last."

37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

NOTE: "Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section." 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a).

"Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:

- (1) each inventor named in the application;
- (2) each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
- (3) every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application." 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c).

NOTE: The "duty as described in § 1.56 will be met so long as the information in question was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98 before issuance of the patent." Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13 -25 at 17.

WARNING: "No information disclosure statement may be filed in a provisional application." 37 C.F.R. § 1.51(b).

List of Sections Forming Part of This Information Disclosure Statement

The following sections are being submitted for this Information Disclosure Statement:

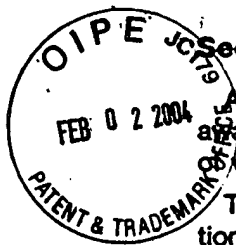
(check sections forming a part of this statement: discard unused sections
and number pages consecutively)

1. ☒ Preliminary Statements
2. ☒ FORMS PTO/SB/08A and 08B (formerly FORM PTO-1449)
3. ☐ Statement as to Information Not Found in Patents or Publications
4. ☐ Identification of Prior Application in Which Listed Information Was Already Cited
and for Which No Copies Are Submitted or Need Be Submitted
5. ☐ Cumulative Patents or Publications
6. ☒ Copies of Listed Information Items Accompanying This Statement
7. ☐ Concise Explanation of Non-English Language Listed Information Items
 - 7A. ☐ EPO Search Report
 - 7B. ☐ English Language Version of EPO Search Report
8. ☐ Translation(s) of Non-English Language Documents
9. ☒ Concise Explanation of English Language Listed Information Items (Optional)
10. ☒ Identification of Person(s) Making This Information Disclosure Statement

(complete the following, if appropriate)

Sections _____, respectively, have been continued on ADDED PAGE(S).

NOTE: "Once the minimum requirements are met, the examiner has an obligation to consider the information." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 37).



Section 1. Preliminary statements

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information, of which they are aware that they believe may be material to the examination of this application, and in respect of which, there may be a duty to disclose.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	1	of	1
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Complete if Known

Application Number	10/623,467
Filing Date	July 18, 2003
First Named Inventor	SCHONNENBECK, Gert
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	1746-10

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

Examiner
Signature

Date
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231.

DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Section 6. Copies of Listed Information Items Accompanying This Statement

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(2) requires that any information disclosure statement filed under § 1.97 shall include: "A legible copy of: (i) Each U.S. and foreign patent; (ii) Each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and (iii) All other information or that portion which caused it to be listed, except that no copy of a U.S. patent application need be included . . . "

NOTE: The wording in § 1.98(a)(2)(iii) makes it clear that the requirement to submit a copy of each item of information listed in an information disclosure statement does not apply to the citation of a U.S. patent application. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 14.

Legible copies of all items listed in Forms PTO/SB/08A and 08B (formerly Form PTO-1449) accompany this information statement.

(complete the following, if applicable)

- ☐ Exception(s) to above:
 - ☐ Items in prior application, from which an earlier filing date is claimed for this application, as identified in Section 4.
 - ☐ Cumulative patents or publications identified in Section 5.

Section 9. Concise Explanation of English Language Listed Information Items (OPTIONAL)

NOTE: "Applicants may, if they wish, provide a concise explanation of why English-language information is being submitted and how it is understood to be relevant. Concise explanations are helpful to the Office, particularly where documents are lengthy and complex and applicant is aware of a section that is highly relevant to patentability or where a large number of documents are submitted and applicant is aware that one or more are highly relevant to patentability." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 38).

German Patent No. DE 4,338,325, issued on February 2, 1995 to Nichtnennung, teaches a harvest wagon for cutting up, mixing and distributing agricultural products intended for feeding livestock, such as fodder, in loose or in silaged form or in the form of prismatic blocks or cylindrical bales. It is provided that the harvest wagon has a box-like container and in the interior of the same, virtually in the vicinity of its base, a pair of horizontal and mutually parallel worms which can be rotated and interact in order to prepare the products before they are distributed. It is further provided that the worms, in order to carry out rotary movements in the directions, which are oriented in opposite directions and are thereby directed downwards in the clearance between the worms, are driven via reduction gears which, for their part, can be connected to the power point of the tractor.

German Patent No. DE 3,715,336, issued on November 24, 1988 to Peinthor, describes a drive device on an agricultural machine, comprising two belt transmissions, the driving belt wheels of which are fastened on a drive shaft as a transmission input shaft and the driven belt wheels of which are fastened on separate driven shafts which are permanently coupled to one another by means of an intermediate transmission and one of which forms the transmission output shaft, the driven shafts being mounted on a rocker which is adjustable between two end positions by means of an actuating device and which can be held in the middle position in the cut-out state.

European Patent No. 212,186, issued on April 7, 1986 to Silber, discloses a trailer for leaves or stalks that has, for loading, a driveable loading drum on its front part and, for unloading, a pivotable rear flap and at least one driveable proportioning roller on its rear part. The proportioning roller is driven by means of a mechanical multi-speed gear with at least two speeds, in such a way that at one speed the proportioning roller is driveable at a low rate of revolutions and a high torque and at the other speed with a high rate of revolutions and a low torque.

German Patent No. DE 3,504,763, issued on October 31, 1985 to Heidemeyer, discloses a control device for adjusting the pair of cone pulleys of a cone pulley transmission continuously

adjusting the transmission ratio for a vehicle, especially a motor vehicle, has a hydraulic control valve controlling the pressure medium actuation of the adjusting cylinders assigned to the pair of cone pulleys, which valve has a control piston adjustable as a function of characteristic variables. In order to obtain a control costing as little as possible but variable within wide limits, it is proposed that a servo control drive be provided controlled by a control unit as a function of the variables and directly actuating the control piston.

German Patent No. DE 3,325,523, issued on January 31, 1985 to Steuer, describes a control device in which fail-safe operation is insured by forming a camming surface on an axially extending camming element, axially and rotatably secured to the take-off shaft, the camming surface being in engagement with a camming projection formed on the piston which is in driving engagement with one of the cone disks on the take-up shaft, and rotatably coupled to the cone disk.

U.S. Patent No. 4,196,859, issued on April 8, 1980 to Trott et al., teaches a material unloader having a conveyor and a distributing unit that includes a control assembly operative from the tractor or towing vehicle by a single hydraulic control. A jaw clutch is provided for engaging and disengaging the distributing unit drive and the power shaft. A variable speed pulley assembly is operable to engage and disengage the conveyor drive and power shaft and to vary the speed of the conveyor over a wide range of values.

British Patent No. 839,868, issued on June 29, 1960 to Agrostroj et al., teaches a variable-speed gear for combine harvesters etc. that comprises a set of toothed change-speed gearing in parallel with a continuously variable ratio expanding pulley gear, the toothed gearing giving the second, third and fourth ratios while the expanding pulley gearing gives the first ratio. Selection of first, second, third or fourth ratio is made by operation of a single control lever, another control lever operating hydraulic means determining the ratio given by the expanding pulley gearing.

British Patent No. 752,102, issued on July 4, 1956 to Claas et al., teaches the body of a combine harvester that is reinforced by transverse tubes which project outwards and carry driving parts, such as a gear box and variable-speed pulleys controlled by rods located within the tubes. The pulleys may have hollow axles through which the rods pass.

Section 10. Identification of Person(s) Making This Information Disclosure Statement

The person making this statement is

(check each applicable item)

- (a) ☐ the inventor(s) who signs below

SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR

(type name of inventor who is signing)

- (b) ☐ an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c))

SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR

(type name of inventor who is signing)

- (c) ☒ the practitioner who signs below on the basis of the information:

(check each applicable item)

- ☐ supplied by the inventor(s).
☐ supplied by an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application. (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c))
☒ in the practitioner's file.

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SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

John S. Egbert

(type or print name of practitioner)

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